

VZCZCXRO5583
PP RUEHAG RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHLH RUEHPW RUEHROV
DE RUEHAH #1099 2341057
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 211057Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0875
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1400
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 4194
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 2006
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1871
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 2442
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 001099

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, SCA/RA (MAZZONE), IO/UNP (SUN), P
(REINEMEYER)
NSC FOR MCDONALD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/21/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [OTRA](#) [OVIP](#) [UNGA](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN/UNGA: VICE PREMIER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS MEREDOV TO HEAD TURKMENISTAN'S DELEGATION

REF: STATE 72078

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Sylvia Reed Curran for reasons 1.4(B)
and (D).

¶1. (C) Turkmenistan's Vice Premier for Foreign Affairs, Rashid Meredov, told A/DCM today that he will represent Turkmenistan at the UN General Assembly. While he still cannot give his exact arrival/departure dates, he expects to travel after September 26, when Turkmenistan's National People's Council (Halk Maslahaty) will meet to review and approve Turkmenistan's new constitution. Meredov does not travel with his spouse, and would require Russian interpretation for any bilateral or multilateral meetings. Post requests a meeting for Meredov with Secretary Rice, if she is still in New York when he arrives.

¶2. (C) COMMENT: While the news that President Berdimuhamedov will not be visiting New York will be disappointing to many, the president has grown increasingly busy over the past year with a growing number of high-level visitors and a hectic travel schedule. Post saw the writing on the wall regarding his attendance at the UNGA when the Halk Maslahaty session was scheduled for September 26. This session of the Halk Maslahaty is one of the most important since Turkmenistan received its independence, since the 2000-plus member body will not just approve the new constitution, but will also, essentially, be voting itself out of existence. With Meredov serving as one of the president's top advisors, the president almost certainly does not want to go through this session without him at his side.
END COMMENT.
CURRAN